

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 10-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6 and 10-15 are amended, claims 3, 4 and 7-9 are cancelled, and claims 16-25 are added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action objected to the title as not sufficiently descriptive. By this Amendment, the title is amended to read "WASHING MACHINE WITH A DRUM HAVING A CURLED JOINT PORTION". Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the Abstract. By this Amendment, the original Abstract is replaced with a Substitute Abstract. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is also respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. By this Amendment, the claims have been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 1-6 and 11

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over, WO 03/054274 to Nitsche (National Stage U.S. Patent No. 6,935,143 is being relied upon as an unofficial translation). As noted above, claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. With respect to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a washing machine that includes a housing, a tub installed in the housing, and a drum rotatably installed in the tub to hold laundry. Claim 1 recites that the drum includes a plurality of columns of perforated holes formed in the sidewall between lifters and extending in a longitudinal direction of the sidewall. Claim 1 also recites that the columns are formed in the sidewall at regular intervals. Claim 1 also recites a joint portion formed in the sidewall and extending in the longitudinal direction, wherein the joint portion is spaced from an adjacent column of perforated holes by the same interval as exists between the columns of perforated holes. Finally, claim 1 recites that the joint portion comprises a plurality of unit joint lines which are separated from each other by the same interval as exists between the perforated holes in the adjacent column of perforated holes.

Nitsche discloses a washing machine laundry drum that is formed by bending a thin strip of material into a cylinder and joining end edges to form a connecting seam. The connecting seam is formed from meshed teeth which butt against the outside of the drum in the non-toothed region of the drum shell (please see FIG. 3).

It is respectfully submitted that Nitsche fails to disclose forming multiple perforated holes in the sidewall in columns that extend in a longitudinal direction of the sidewall, wherein the columns are formed at regular intervals. Nitsche also fails to disclose a joint portion formed in the sidewall, wherein the joint portion is spaced from an adjacent column of perforated holes by the same interval that exists between the columns of perforated holes. Moreover, Nitsche also fails to disclose or suggest that the joint portion includes a plurality of unit joint lines which are separated from each other by the same interval as exists between the perforated holes in the adjacent column of perforated holes. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Nitsche fails to anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious, viewing Nitsche, to locate the joint as recited in claim 1. However, the Office Action does not point to any teaching or support in Nitsche for this assertion. It is respectfully submitted that it requires the impermissible use of hindsight, in view of Applicant's invention, to find a motivation to locate the joint as recited in claim 1.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nitsche is improper and should be withdrawn. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, and for the additional features they recite. For all of the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 11 over Nitsche is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,886 to Kim et al. (hereinafter, “Kim”). As noted above, claim 3 has been canceled. With respect to claims 1 and 2, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kim discloses a spin basket for a washing machine. The spin basket includes a cylindrical shaped side panel, a front panel, and a rear panel respectively joined to the front and back of the side panel. The side panel is formed by bending a rectangular metal sheet into a cylindrical panel and then forming a joint between both edges. The joint is formed in one of the lifters (please see FIG. 2, 3, and column 3, line 1-2). It is respectfully submitted that, as explained above, Kim not only fails to disclose forming the joint portion in the sidewall at the recited location, but that Kim actually teaches away from this construction. For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Kim fails to anticipate claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Claims 5, 6 and 10-15

The Office Action rejects claims 4-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kim, in view of Nitsche. As noted above, claims 4 and 7-9 have been canceled. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 6 and 10-15 are dependent on independent claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as well for their added features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims 16-21

By this Amendment, claims 16-21 are added to the application. Claim 16 is an independent claim and claims 17-21 depend from claim 16. It is respectfully submitted that new claims are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above.

CONCLUSION

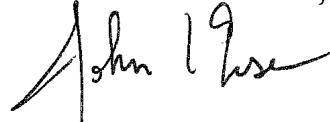
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amdt. dated January 9, 2008

Reply to Office Action of October 9, 2007

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Eisenhart", written over a horizontal line.

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